

Message Text

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41/46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

EB-07 OPR-02 FSE-00 MC-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 OMB-01

FDRE-00 /094 W

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O 021310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 122

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 5910

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFORMATION OMITTED ON ORIGINAL)

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: PINS AEMR CB US

SUBJ: GRADUAL REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES

REF : PHNOM PENH

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT DCM'S
MEETING WITH PRESS CORRESPONDENTS APRIL 2. BEGIN TEXT.

Q. THESE AIRCRAFT AT YOUR DISPOSAL, ARE THEY CARGO OR
RICE PLANES?

A. THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION ARE THE USAID CHARTER C-46
WHICH GOES TO BANGKOK ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND THERE IS
ALSO A C-130 MILITARY AIRCRAFT USED BY OUR MILITARY
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE
USAID C-46 CAN TAKE CARE OF MOST OR ALL OF THE PEOPLE
WHO WILL BE GOING TO BANGKOK.

Q. THE C-46 -- HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN IT CARRY?

A. A MAXIMUM OF XX 45.

Q. HOW LONG DO YOU ANTICIPATE THIS TO LAST?

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A. TILL THE END OF THE WEEK. OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS:

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY.

Q. CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH A BETTER READING ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE?

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU A BETTER READING ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OVERALL BECAUSE WE ARE JUST NOW CHECKING WITH THE NON-OFFICIAL GROUPS FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO FIND OUT HOW MANY WISH TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF OUR TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO BANGKOK. AS FAR AS OUR OWN OFFICIAL MISSION IS CONCERNED, PERHAPS 10 TO 15 PERCENT WILL BE GOING OUT.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY NON-OFFICIAL CATEGORIES?

A. BY THAT I MEAN DIPLOMATS OF OTHER MISSIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCY PERSONNEL, PEOPLE WORKING ON US GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SUCH AS PEOPLE WORKING ON AMMUNITION LOGISTICS.

Q. HOW ABOUT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SUCH AS CRS?

A. I SAID SOME OF THEM WOULD BE INCLUDED. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY.

Q. ORIGINALLY THEY WERE ASKED TO LEAVE. THEN THEY WERE ASKED TO COME BACK. NOW ARE THEY BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AGAIN?

A. THEY ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO LEAVE. THEY ARE BEING ASKED IF THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THEIR GROUPS WHO ARE NOT ENTIRELY ESSENTIAL TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAMS. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO LOOK AT THEIR OWN PEOPLE ON THE SAME BASIS AS WE ARE LOOKING AT OUR OWN MISSION PERSONNEL.

Q. AMMUNITION AND LOGISTIC -- WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

A. THERE IS A GROUP WORKING ON AMMUNITION LOGISTICS. THEY ARE ALL TCN'S - THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS - AND OUR EVACUATION PLANS INCLUDE THEM. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, AS THEY ARE WORKING FOR US. THIS HAS JUST OCCURRED TODAY. THEREFORE WE HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO CONSULT THE HEAD OF THIS GROUP AND THE LEADERS OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SO AT THE PRESENT TIME WE CANNOT TELL HOW MANY OF THEIR PEOPLE CAN BE DISPENSED WITH TEMPORARILY.

Q. WHAT COUNTRIES DO THESE TCN'S REPRESENT AND WHAT TYPE OF WORK DO THEY PERFORM HERE?

A. I BELIEVE THEY ARE MOSTLY FILIPINOS AND SOUTH KOREANS, AND THEY WORK IN AMMUNITION ACCOUNTING AND SUCH THINGS AND DO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRAINING OF KHMERS IN THE SAME FUNCTIONS.

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Q. THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE WORKING AT THE AIRPORT?

A. NO.

Q. WHAT BROUGHT THIS ABOUT TODAY? YOU SAID THIS CAME ABOUT TODAY.

A. THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR WHICH THIS EMBASSY IS RESPONSIBLE IS AND HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW DAILY. I WOULD SAY WE DECIDED TODAY THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE GO TO BANGKOK TEMPORARILY ANY PERSONNEL

WE CAN DISPENSE WITH FOR THE TIME BEING.

Q. HAD YOU PREVIOUSLY DECIDED THAT THE FALL OF NEAK LUONG WOULD BE A SIGNAL FOR ACTIVATING THIS PART OF YOUR EVACUATION PLAN?

A. THE ANSWER IS NO.

Q. DID THE FALL OF NEAK LUONG HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT DECISION?

A. THE ANSWER IS THE SAME.

Q. HOW TEMPORARY IS TEMPORARY?

A. YOU ARE ASKING ME TO FORESEE THE FUTURE. OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTION IS UNDER REVIEW ON A DAILY BASIS. AS WE NEED THESE PEOPLE THEY WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO PHNOM PENH.

Q. CAN YOU CONTINUE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH A SMALLER NUMBER OF PEOPLE?

A. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE AMMUNITION PIPELINE WILL RUN DRY BEFORE THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. THE CONGRESS, WHEN IT RETURNS FROM ITS RECESS NEXT WEEK, ONE OF THE ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA WILL BE THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA. IF THE CONGRESS ACTS FAVORABLY ON THAT REQUEST OUR PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE WILL IMMEDIATELY PICK UP AND WE MAY NEED TO RETURN HERE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE LEAVING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I CANNOT PREDICT WHAT ACTION THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL TAKE.

Q. WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC FACTORS THAT MADE YOU TAKE THIS DECISION TODAY, NOT IN YOUR DAILY REVIEW, BUT TODAY?

A. I BELIEVE I ALREADY ANSWERED THIS. WE REVIEW THIS EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. WE TOOK THIS DECISION TODAY.

Q. WHY WOULD IT BE PRUDENT TODAY AND NOT YESTERDAY OR LAST WEEK? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY PRUDENT?

A. QUITE OBVIOUSLY IT REDUCES THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR WHOM THIS EMBASSY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE.

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Q. WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE FROM THE EMBASSY ITSELF WILL BE LEAVING?

A. THEY WILL BE MAINLY FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, SOME FROM USAID, SOME FROM DAO, MEDTC -- THOSE WE

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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EB-07 OPR-02 FSE-00 MC-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 OMB-01

FDRE-00 /094 W

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O 021310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 123

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 5910

HAVE DECIDED ARE LEAST ESSENTIAL FOR CONTINUING OUR
NORMAL FUNCTIONS HERE.

Q. CAN I JUST CHECK ON THAT FIGURE OF 10 TO 15 PERCENT.
PERCENT OF WHAT?

A. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WE ARE PERMITTED TO
HAVE - U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES - IN CAMBODIA IS 200.
RECENTLY THE FIGURE HAS BEEN RUNNING AT ABOUT 190.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY KIND OF IDEA WHAT THE NEXT STEP
WOULD BE IF THE EVACUATION CONTINUES, SO WE CAN FIGURE
HOW LONG AND HOW MUCH FURTHER WE HAVE TO GO?

A. IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, WHEN I DISCUSSED THIS WITH YOU
EARLIER I PLAINED THAT IT WAS GENERALLY DONE IN PHASES,
AND THE FIRST PHASE WAS THE EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS,
THAT IS, OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS. SECOND WAS THE DEPARTURE
OF PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND
WHOSE PRESENCE HERE WAS NOT DEEMED ESSENTIAL. THE NEXT
PHASE I SUPPOSE WOULD BE A REDUCTION IN OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
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BY EVACUATING - IN THIS CASE TEMPORARILY - THE LEAST ESSENTIAL
MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL MISSION FAMILY.
INCLUDE IN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES HERE, AS I EXPLAINED,
ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER CATEGORIES SUCH AS TCN'S, FOREIGN
DIPLOMATS, VOLAGS FINANCED BY USAID.

Q. WHAT GENERAL PRINCIPLE IS BEING APPLIED TO THEM?

A. THAT THOSE LEAST ESSENTIAL SHOULD GO TO BANGKOK TEMPORARILY.

Q. THEN THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE LAST STEP BEFORE MORE OR LESS TOTAL EVACUATION? THERE COULD BE MANY MORE PHASES.

A. I WOULD SAY YOUR DESCRIPTION IS ACCURATE. THE WHOLE QUESTION IS REVIEWED DAILY AND THERE COULD BE MANY PHASES AND STAGES. I CANNOT ANTICIPATE WHAT THEY WOULD BE AND WHEN THEY MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

Q. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN CAMBODIA NOW DOES THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CONSIDER ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR?

A. I AM VERY SORRY BUT THAT IS THE
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ANSWER. IT IS IN THE REALM

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O 021310Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 123
INFO RUMJQB/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 8333

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 5910, SEC. 2 OF 3, GARBLED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.
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41
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FDRE-00 /094 W

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O 021310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 124

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 5910

BULK OF OUR OFFICIAL MISSION PERSONNEL WILL REMAIN.
THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN PHNOM PENH WILL STILL BE
VERY LARGE AND VERY, VERY VISIBLE.

Q. SHOULD THERE BE A TOTALLY UNFAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL
VOTE, WHAT EFFECT WILL THAT HAVE ON THE
EVACUATION DATE?

A. AS I SAID EARLIER, THIS QUESTION IS UNDER DAILY
REVIEW HERE AND IN WASHINGTON. SHOULD SUCH AN EVENT
OCCUR I AM SURE IT WOULD BE A MAJOR FACTOR TAKEN INTO
CONSIDERATION THAT DAY.

Q. THE PRESS, IS IT INCLUDED IN ONE OF YOUR CATEGORIES?
COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT IS MEANT BY FOREIGN MISSION
MEMBERS FOR WHOM THE U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE?

A. YES, YOU ARE ALL INCLUDED. WE TOOK ON, SOME TIME
IN THE PAST, RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINGENT
EVACUATION OF A NUMBER OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES--NOT ALL
OF THEM--THOSE WHICH REMAIN IN PHNOM PENH TODAY
ARE INCLUDED.

Q. WHO ARE THEY?

A. THE ONES LEFT ARE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE, SOUTH
KOREANS, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN. I THINK THAT IS
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IT. THERE IS ALSO A LAO.

Q. ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE MISSIONS ARE
LEAVING NOW?

A. NO, THAT IS NOT CORRECT. AS WITH THE OTHER
CATEGORIES, WE WILL CONSULT WITH THEM AS TO WHETHER
THEY HAVE ON THEIR STAFFS PEOPLE WHO COULD TEMPORARILY
BE DISPENSED WITH.

Q. WHEN WERE EMBASSY DEPENDENTS EVACUATED?

A. YOU MEAN U.S. EMBASSY PHNOM PENH? EMBASSY PHNOM PENH
IS A NON-DEPENDENT POST. IN EARLY FEBRUARY WE
ASKED THE FEW WIVES WHO WERE HERE VISITING--THEY ALL
HAVE SAFE HAVENS IN BANGKOK OR ELSEWHERE--
TO RETURN TO THEIR SAFE HAVENS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR'S
WIFE, MY WIFE, GENERAL PALMER'S AND A FEW OTHERS. THEY
ARE NOW IN SAFE HAVEN IN BANGKOK. WE DO NOT CONSIDER

THIS TO HAVE BEEN AN EVACUATION.

Q. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN A NON-DEPENDENT POST?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN IT BECAME A NON-DEPENDENT POST -- PERHAPS FEBRUARY 1973.

Q. WHAT EFFECT WOULD A NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE HAVE ON EVACUATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL?

A. I BELIEVE I ANSWERED THAT QUESTION EARLIER. I SAID IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A FACTOR WHEN THERE IS A DAILY REVIEW OF THE QUESTION.

Q. WHAT SPECIFICALLY WERE THE MAJOR FACTORS IN MAKING THIS DECISION TODAY AS OPPOSED TO YESTERDAY OR DAY BEFORE?

A. I DO NOT THINK I CAN ANSWER THAT ANY BETTER THAN I TRIED TO EARLIER. WE KEEP THIS CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW AND AT CERTAIN POINTS WE MAKE CERTAIN DECISIONS BASED ON FACTORS AFFECTING OUR OVERALL SITUATION. THERE IS NO SINGLE FACTOR THAT DETERMINED THIS DECISION.

Q. CAN WE FILM THE DEPARTURE?

A. ARE YOU FROM A TV NETWORK? IF YOU THINK YOUR VIEWERS AT HOME WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT OUR USAID CHARTER PLANE, THE C-46, EMBARKING ITS PASSENGERS AS IT DOES THREE TIMES A WEEK EVERY WEEK, YOU ARE WELCOME TO DO SO. THAT WILL BE THE SCENE YOU WILL PHOTOGRAPH.

Q. ARE YOU SENDING ANY AMOUNT OF MATERIEL, MORE RECORDS, AS PART OF THIS NEW PHASE OF EVACUATION, MORE THINGS LEAVING THIS MISSION?

A. NO.

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Q. WAS THE DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION A DETERMINING FACTOR?

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY BETTER ANSWER THAN I GAVE BEFORE, SO I AM GOING TO HAVE TO DUCK THAT ONE.

Q. ON TEMPORARY DEPARTURE, CAN WE ASSUME YOU ARE NOT SHIPPING OUT PERSONAL EFFECTS?

A. THEY WILL BE TAKING ONLY THEIR PERSONAL BAGGAGE, CLOTHING, ENOUGH FOR A STAY IN BANGKOK.

Q. OTHER MISSIONS FOR WHOM YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE, DOES THE LIST INCLUDE THE SOVIET PEOPLE STILL HERE?

A. IT DOES NOT. THE SOVIET MISSION IS IN A CARETAKER STATUS, THAT IS, THEY DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATS HERE. THEY HAVE A TASS MAN HERE AND ABOUT THREE CARETAKER PERSONNEL, I THINK. THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED A DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

Q. WOULD THE U.S. INCLUDE THEM IF THEY REQUESTED US AND THEY COULD NOT GET RESERVATIONS ON AIR CAMBODGE?

A. WE WILL DECIDE WHEN AND IF ASKED BY THEM. THEIR MISSION IS NOW IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION. SINCE THEY HAVE JUST RECOGNIZED SIHANOUK'S GRUNK, PERHAPS THEY HAVE GONE INTO A COMA.

Q. WHAT TIME DOES THAT PLANE LEAVE?

A. THE TIME VARIES FROM DAY TO DAY. I CANNOT TELL YOU

WHAT TIME EXACTLY. I THINK YESTERDAY IT CAME IN FROM
BANGKOK ABOUT TWO. IT COMES IN FROM BANGKOK, UNLOADS, AND
THEN LOADS UP AND LEAVES. YOU ARE WELCOME TO FILM IT--
GET IN TOUCH WITH PETERSON AND MCHALE.

Q. WHERE DO THE JOURNALISTS FIT IN THE EVACUATION?

A. I PREVIOUSLY BRIEFED A GROUP OF YOU ON THAT. MR. MCHALE
CAN FILL YOU IN, OR YOUR WARDEN LIAISON, MATT FRANJOLA.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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